

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00787 281258Z

50

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SCCT-01 DHA-02 IO-10 ACDA-10 /091 W

----- 096590

R 241100Z JUL 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2217

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 787

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SY

SUBJECT: GOI PRESS ON SYRIAN DISTURBANCES

REF: BAGHDAD 714

1. LOCAL ARABIC PRESS JULY 22 (AS WELL AS ENGLISH LANGUAGE BAGHDAD OBSERVER) RAN ARTICLE HEADLINED "SYSTEMATIC TERROR CAMPAIGN AGAINST CITIZENS IN SYRIA". ARTICLE STATED "REIGN OF TERROR" CONTINUES IN BERZA, SUBURB OF DAMASCUS, AND IN TOWN OF HAMA TO THE NORTH OF DAMASCUS, ACCORDING TRAVELERS ARRIVING BEIRUT. TERRORIST GANGS, EMPLOYED BY THE SYRIAN REGIME, ARE COMMITTING WANTON ACTS OF ARREST AND MURDER.

2. ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT SO-CALLED "DEFENSE DETACHMENTS", SPECIAL FORCES USED BY SYRIAN REGIME TO TERRORIZE CITIZENS, LATE LAST MONTH RAIDED COFFEE SHOP IN BERZA AND OPENED FIRE ON THE PEOPLE INSIDE, KILLING MORE THAN 10 PERSON. INHABITANTS OF LOCALITY WERE THEN ORDERED OUT OF THEIR HOMES WHICH WERE THOROUGHLY SEARCHED. SINCE THEN, BERZA'S POWER
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SUPPLY IS SWITCHED OFF AT 8 O'CLOCK EVERY EVENING

AND CURFEW IS ENFORCED. THE ATMOSPHERE PREVALENT
IN HAMA IS NO DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN BERZA. THE
GANGS OF SYRIAN REGIME HAVE BEEN MOUNTING SYSTEMATIC
CAMPAIGNS OF MASSIVE ARREST INVOLVING COUNTRYMENT WHO
OBJECT TO THE SYRIAN REGIME'S DRIFT BEHIND THE
LIQUIDATIONIST PLOT.

3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT OVER PAST TWO
WEEKS, GANGS OF SYRIAN REGIME HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING
A HYSTERICAL CAMPAIGN OF MASS ARRESTS DIRECTED AGAINST
IRAQI NATIONALS, MOST OF WHOM ARE WAGE EARNERS.
KILLOUGH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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